MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(INCLUDING PENNAL CIVIL PARISH)

T H E R E P O R T

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

- for -

THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

B. BROOKS EVANS, M.R.San.I.
Town Hall,
Machynlleth.

Telephone : 99.

MEDICAL OFFICER:

J.C. ASHTON, M.B.Ch.B.,
Bodlondeb,
Machynlleth

Telephone : 20.

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Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1st July, 1947

The Registrar General's returns of Deaths and Births in the Rural District and Civil Parish of Pennal were received last week. Summarized they are as follows :-

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21 Males and 28 Females died during the year in R.D.C. Total 49

2 Males and 2 Females " " " " " Pennal Total 4

Estimated population in R.D.C. 3274, in Pennal 346.

No. of deaths per 1000 of population in R.D.C. 15. in Pennal 20.

Causes of death as certified by Medical Practitioners.

	R.D.C.		PENNAL.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Heart Disease	5	9	2	
Brain Conditions	3	6		
Kidney Conditions	3	2		
Pneumonia	2	2		
Bronchitis	1	2		
Digestive Conditions	1	2		
Cancer	1	1	1	2
Influenza	1	1		
Diabetes	-	1		
Tuberculosis	1	-		
Premature Birth	-	-	1	
All other causes	3	2	1	
	21.	28.	5.	2.
Total	49		7	

BIRTHS	R.D.C.		PENNAL	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
	23.	27.	2.	2
Total	50		4.	

Birth Rate per 1000 Populations =	15.2	11.6
Illegitimate Children 7 out of 50 =	140 if 1000 children were born.	0
Deaths among children under 1 yr. =	2 out of 50 or 40 if 1000 children were born	1 or 250 if 1000 children were born

TUBERCULOSIS 3 New cases notified during the year. All Pulmonary

1 male 16 years. 2 females between 20 and 25 years There was one female death.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies.

The Council has a number of small separate schemes, some of these are not satisfactory in quality and quantity. The greater majority of the houses are supplied from wells or standpipes, few houses have water laid on. The District does not lend itself to a comprehensive water supply scheme, there being several factors preventing this, these were mentioned in the 1945 annual report. A step in the right direction was taken when the Council appointed a Consulting Engineer, but at the close of the year only one outline scheme had been received (Llanbrynmair). The Council resolved to enquire whether the Dolgelley R.D.C. Scheme for the village of Corris could be extended to serve the Village of Esgairgeiliog.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Parts of the district are covered by a refuse collection scheme, which whilst not being all that can be desired, is nevertheless performing a service.
Conditions do not easily lend themselves to a Comprehensive scheme, due to
(1) The isolated and scattered nature of the villages.
(2) To considerable trouble being found in locating suitable ground for use as refuse tips.
(3) Contractors being averse to handling night soil. At the close of the year attention was being given to the possibility of covering the whole district.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACT 1944.

During the year Messrs Wallace Evans & Partners, Consulting Engineer Penarth, were appointed to make preliminary surveys and outline water supply and sewerage schemes as follows :-
(1) Water Supply Schemes for Pennal, Llanbrynmair, Commins Coch, Cemmaes Road, Aberhosan, Abercegir, Forge, Penegoes and Esfairgeiliog.
(2) Sewerage Schemes for Pennal and Cemmaes.
The Engineer's Report on a proposed scheme for Llanbrynmair was received in November 1946.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There were 6 new registrations during the year. All of these were for the production and sale of milk, wholesale. Unfortunately the Council has no power to refuse to register these persons and their premises. It would be far better if the Council could insist upon a certain standard prior to registration

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

There is no meat slaughtered within the Rural District, the bulk of the meat supplied in the district is distributed from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Machynlleth. A small part of the district is supplied with meat from the Towyn U.D. and Newtown U.D. A small quantity of meat was condemned due to putrefaction - weight 168 lbs. A small quantity of bottled and canned foodstuffs was condemned.

ICE-CREAM MANUFACTURE.

There are no premises within the Rural District where ice-cream is manufactured.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Waste matter is thrown into streams on occasions, due to lack of Refuse collection schemes, no complaints have been received of pollution but the effluent from the Machynlleth Urban Council's sewage disposal works which passes through parts of the district prior to being discharged into the Dovey River is not satisfactory.
It is understood that the U.D.C. is giving the matter their consideration

CAMPING SITES

An application for permission to utilise a piece of ground as a permanent camping site was refused on the grounds of lack of Sanitary amenities, and sub-standard building. Gypsies camp on common land in the district and complaints are received from time to time. The Council should adopt byelaws prohibiting camping on the common land.
There are no licensed camping grounds in the District

FLOODING.

Flooding takes place on occasions during the winter months but fortunately this does not involve houses, except for a few isolated instances, so that no special relief and sanitary arrangements are necessary

SHOPS.

All shops within the district are of a "One-Man" type, and no action was taken as to heating, ventilation and closet accommodation.

VILLAGE SURVEYS.

During the year a Survey was carried out at Derwenlas, and a detailed report was presented to the Council in December, 1946. The report stated that the conditions relating to housing, water supply, drainage, sewerage, and refuse collection were very unsatisfactory. It was also pointed out that remedial measures would entail extra-ordinary expenditure due to most difficult site conditions which would be encountered. It was suggested in the report that a consultation might take place with the Welsh Board of Health there being several factors which should be the subject of consultation.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND DWELLINGS.

	No.
Number of cases where action was taken under Sections 83 and 84 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	1.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919
Infestation Order 1943

The Rural District Council is not responsible for the administration of these.

HOUSING.

Generally, the houses in the district are of a low standard, and devoid of amenities, Rents are low. One house, closed (under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936) in 1945 was re-occupied

by consent of the Council to alleviate severe overcrowding. A Survey carried out in the village of Derwenlas revealed that of 31 houses in the village 18 were unfit and of a type which could not be made fit. The remaining houses were found to be sub-standard in some respects.

Number of houses erected by the Council during the year.	0.
Number in course of erection by the Council	8.
Number of houses on approved tender but work not commenced	4.
Number of Dwelling houses inspected under Housing Acts.	34.
Number of Dwelling houses classified as unfit for human habitation	21.
Number of unfit dwellings dealt with informally and major reconstruction Scheme accepted during the year	1.
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1946.	2.
Number of reconditioning Schemes approved under Section 11 Housing Act,1936 after Service of Notice	1.
Number of reconditioning Schemes disapproved after service of Notice under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936.	1.

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number Served.	14.
Number complied with	13.

STATUTORY NOTICES (P.H.ACTS)

Number Served	0.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases during the year and enquired into	4.
Number of Houses involved.	4.
Number of Houses disinfected	4.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number of new registrations	6.

ANIMALS.

Number of cases causing nuisances	0.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number in district.	0.

LODGING HOUSES.

Number in district	0.

CAMPING SITES

Number in district	0.

BEDBUG INFESTATIONS.

Cases reported	0.

SWIMMING BATHS ETC.

Number in district	0.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured used, or sold	0.

VISITS.

Total number of visits to various works, water supplies, houses, Housing Sites, inspection of nuisances etc., etc., carried out by Sanitary Inspector during the year. --

(Approx) 428.

COMPLAINTS.

Seventeen complaints were received during the year, and fifteen of these were attended to. Two were outstanding at the end of the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.C. ASHTON,

Medical Officer of Health.